

TURF TWISTERS

ANY SHADE OF GREEN WILL DO

Question: Each spring I strain my eyes for the first signs of green growth in my bermuda fairways. Is there a way to tell if it is still alive before it greens up? (Maryland)

Answer: Yes. You can put plugs in a greenhouse and see if they will initiate growth, or in the field, take up some stolons or rhizomes and see if they are healthy looking. Any shade of green is desirable, but brown to black is doubtful or dead. If a milky white stolon snaps when it is broken and has juice or fluid inside, chances are it is healthy.

RED IS FOR RESPIRATION

Question: What is the TZ test; (New Jersey)

Answer: A TZ test provides a quick reading on the viability and quality of seed. TZ stands for tetrazolium chloride which is a color indicator. In the process of respiration of living tissue, hydrogen ions are given off which react with tetrazolium chloride (a colorless liquid) to form a red stain. When seeds are soaked in tetrazolium chloride: if tissue is alive, a pink stain results; if the seed is dead, no stain is produced; if the seed is injured, respiration is accelerated and a darker red stain results.

BERMUDAMITE DYNAMITE

Question: What is new on control of bermudamite? (Texas)

Answer: There is nothing better at this time than four pounds of actual ingredient AG 500 diazinon per acre. Bermudamite was most active during 1972 and may be more widespread than ever in 1973.